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REMARKS BY

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AT

CENTENNIAL SYMPOSIUM
PROMOTING HEALTH/PREVENTING DISEASE
100 YEARS AND STILL SERVING

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UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY
OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

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THE CENTENNIAL SYMPOSIUM

A CENTURY OF SERVICE WITH DISTINCTION --

AND STILL SERVING

**AS I PREVIEWED THE AGENDA FOR THE 2 DAYS
OF THIS CENTENNIAL SYMPOSIUM, I WAS REMINDED,
ONCE AGAIN, OF THE VAST BREADTH AND DEPTH OF
THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.**

**FROM THE FRONTIERS OF LABORATORY SCIENCE
TO THE FRONTLINES OF SERVICE DELIVERY, THE**

MISSION OF THE USPHS CONTINUES TO BE THE
IMPROVEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE HEALTH OF
ALL CITIZENS.

SINCE ITS FOUNDING BY PRESIDENT JOHN
ADAMS IN 1798, THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HAS
BEEN THE SYMBOL OF THE NATION'S EFFORT TO
PROTECT PEOPLE FROM DISEASE. INTEGRAL TO
THIS MOVEMENT HAS BEEN THE COMMISSIONED
CORPS, A CADRE OF CAREER OFFICERS
REPRESENTING THOSE HEALTH PROFESSIONS THAT
ARE ESSENTIAL TO MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF A
GROWING NATION.

TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION, PHS PROGRAMS
ARE DESIGNED -- :

- O TO DEVELOP KNOWLEDGE THROUGH BIOMEDICAL,
BEHAVIORAL AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH,
LEADING TO THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
OF DISEASE
- O TO CONTROL AND PREVENT DISEASE
- O TO IMPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

O TO ASSURE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE DRUGS AND
HEALTHFUL FOODS

O AND TO EXPAND HEALTH RESOURCES.

TODAY'S PROGRAM TAKES ITS ROOTS FROM
HEALTHY PEOPLE: THE SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT
ON HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION,
ISSUED IN 1979 BY MY PREDECESSOR, DR. JULIUS
RICHMOND. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY OBJECTIVES OF
THE NATION WHICH I'M DELIGHTED TO SAY HAS
BEEN INSTITUTIONALIZED -- WE ARE NOW SETTING
GOALS FOR 2000.

HEALTHY PEOPLE WAS A CALL FOR A SECOND PUBLIC HEALTH REVOLUTION AND IT CONTINUES AS A CHALLENGE FOR OUR NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO GOOD PERSONAL HEALTH HABITS.

NEXT WEEK I WILL RELEASE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON SMOKING AND HEALTH.

AS YOU KNOW, THE ILL EFFECTS OF SMOKING ON AN INDIVIDUAL'S HEALTH IS A PARTICULAR CONCERN OF MINE. THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST SMOKING IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT DEMONSTRATES

THAT WE CAN REVERSE THE TRENDS OF A DEEPLY INGRAINED AND PUBLICLY SANCTIONED BEHAVIOR, TO SAY NOTHING OF AN ADDICTION, IF WE MAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO INFORM AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC.

IT ALSO DEMONSTRATES THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF PREVENTION. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT, IF JUST ONE HEAVY SMOKER QUIT, SOCIETY SAVES BETWEEN \$9,000 AND \$41,000. IN FACT, IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT MAKING THIS A SMOKE-FREE NATION MAY HAVE AS GREAT AN IMPACT ON HEALTH CARE COSTS AS ANY OTHER SINGLE HEALTH INITIATIVE.

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF EVALUATING HOW WE'VE DONE WITH RESPECT TO THOSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES THAT WE SET FOR OURSELVES IN 1980 TO ACCOMPLISH BY 1990.

- O WE HOPE TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY TO FEWER THAN 9 DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.
- O TO IMPROVE CHILD HEALTH AND REDUCE DEATHS AMONG CHILDREN AGES 1 TO 14 TO FEWER THAN 93 PER 100,000.

O TO REDUCE THE DEATHS AMONG PEOPLE AGES 25 TO 64 TO FEWER THAN 400 PER 100,000.

O AND, FOR OLDER ADULTS, TO REDUCE THE AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER OF DAYS OF RESTRICTED ACTIVITY DUE TO ACUTE AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS TO FEWER THAN 30 DAYS PER YEAR.

WHILE THE FIRST CENTURIES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE WERE NOTEWORTHY BECAUSE IT OVERCAME AND CONTROLLED THE SPREAD OF

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, THE HEALTH PROBLEMS OF THE COMING THIRD CENTURY WILL NEED TO ADDRESS ISSUES WHICH REQUIRE THE PARTICIPATION OF AN INFORMED AND HEALTH-CONSCIOUS CITIZENRY.

BUT YOU WILL PROVIDE THE GUIDELINES. IN THIS ENDEAVOR, I WISH YOU GOD SPEED -- AND HAVE A GREAT MEETING.